AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
Applicant: Travis J. Parry et al.
Serial No.: 10/037,685
Filed: October 24, 2001
Docket No.: 10006365-1
Title: NETWORK SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATIC PRINTING OF DIGITAL
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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 26.

Please amend claims 1, 21, 22 and 28 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of automated printing of an image at a user printer, the method comprising:

arranging a user printer, a network site, and a sender to be independent of and separate from each other, and arranging the user printer to be independent of and separate from a network site;

posting, via the sender, at least one image at the network site;

defining a print criterion for the user printer;

registering the user printer with the network site to make at least one automatic image request from the user printer to the network site for printing the at least one image at the user printer; and

performing, via the user printer, the at least one automatic image request including automatically:

determining, via a network communication link between the user printer and the network site, whether the at least one image has been posted at the network site by the sender;

capturing, via the network communication link, the at least one image from the network site to the user printer upon determining that the at least one image has been posted at the network site; and

automatically printing the at least one image on the user printer according to the print criterion.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the user printer includes defining a printer network address, and wherein defining the printer network address includes defining a unique address associated with the user printer and registering the printer network address with the network site.

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3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein defining the network address includes defining the unique address associated with the user printer as an IP address.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further including defining a user interface, and wherein defining the print criterion includes defining the print criterion via the user interface.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein defining the print criterion includes registering at least one of user information, sender information, printing options, and image delivery options.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein registering the user information and registering the sender information includes providing usernames and passwords for a user and a sender, together with the printer network address and the network site address; wherein capturing the at least one image from the network site to the user printer includes logging on to the network site identified by the network site address with the username and the password of the user, and the at least one image being transferred from the network site to the user printer identified by the printer network address.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein registering the printing options includes selecting at least one of a file format input, a file format output, a print medium size, a print medium type, a number of copies, a printing layout, a color printing option, and a finishing option.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein registering the image delivery options includes selecting at least one of a delivery option, a gallery, and an image size.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the user printer includes defining the network communications link between the user printer and the network site, and registering the user printer with the network site via the network communications link.

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10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, including defining the network site to be a website.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein registering the user printer at the website includes defining the user printer to include a printing system controller and a web access mechanism.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein capturing the at least one image from the network site to the user printer and automatically printing the at least one image on the user printer include capturing the at least one image via the network communications link.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the at least one image has been posted to the network site includes defining a master image list as a list of downloaded images from the network site and comparing the master image list with the at least one image posted to the network site.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein comparing the master image list with the at least one image posted to the network site further includes retrieving an image list of images posted to the network site.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein retrieving the image list includes the user printer sending a query to the network site according to the print criterion via the network communications link.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein comparing the master image list with all images posted to the network site includes comparing the master image list with the image list retrieved from the network site, generating via the printing system controller an image request, as part of the at least one automatic image request, that identifies the image to

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be printed, and updating the master image list to include the image after it has successfully

been delivered to the user.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein capturing the at least one

image from the network site includes the at least one image being transferred from the

network site to the user printer according to the image request via the network

communications link.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one image

being transferred from the network site to the user printer includes the network site receiving

the image request from the user printer via the network communications link.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein automatically printing the at

least one image on the user printer, includes translating the at least one image captured from

the network site into a print job.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein automatically printing the at

least one image on the user printer further includes executing the print job by printing the at

least one image on the user printer and thereby delivering the at least one image to the user.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method of automated printing of a digital photograph , the

method comprising:

            registering the user printer at a website, the user printer being

        independent of and separate from the website;

            posting, via a sender interface independent of and separate from both the user

        printer and the website, at least one digital photograph at the website;

            requesting, via a network communication link between the user printer and the

    website, the at least one digital photograph from the website for printing at the user printer

    including automatically:

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determining ,via the network communication link, whether the at least

one digital photograph has been posted to the website;

capturing, via the network communication link, the at least one digital

photograph from the website to the user printer after the at least one digital

photograph has been posted to the website by the sender interface; and

automatically printing the at least one digital photograph on the user

printer.

22.   (Currently Amended) A system for automated printing of an image at a user printer,

the system comprising:

a network site configured to store, and make available for access, at least one image;

a sender independent of and separate from the network site, the sender configured to

post the at least one image at the network site;

a user printer independent of and separate from both the sender and the network site,

the user printer including:

a printing system controller; and

an embedded web access mechanism and a printing system controller,

theembedded web access mechanism configured to enable, via a network

communication link between the user printer and the network site, directly

automatically requesting determining whether the at least one image has been posted

at the network site and directly automatically capturing via the network

communication link directly to the user printer the at least one image that has been

posted at theto a network site by a sender, the user printer being independent of and

separate from both the sender and the network site; and

a user interface in communication with the user printer and configured to enable

predefining a print criterion;

wherein the user printer is configured to automatically print the captured at least one

image at the user printer according to the print criterion.

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23.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the user printer contains the user interface and the embedded web access mechanism includes an embedded application allowing the user printer to communicate with the network site regardless of the network site's operating platform.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the printing system controller includes a processor, a memory, device-specific hardware, and input/output circuitry; wherein the embedded web access mechanism includes a printer web page, a printer web server, and a network interface.

25.   (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the web server is adapted to generate the printer web page, wherein the printer web page is configured to provide the user interface, and wherein the user interface is configured to provide a control communications link to the printing controller for defining the print criterion.

26.   (Cancelled)

27.   (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the embedded web access mechanism is configured to permit access to the printer web page by the network site via the network communications link.

28.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of automated printing of an image at a user printer , the method comprising:
        arranging a user printer, a network site, and a sender to be independent of and separate from each other, and arranging the user printer to be independent of and separate from a network site;
        posting, via the sender, at least one image at the network site;
        defining a print criterion for the user printer;

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registering the user printer with the network site to make at least one automatic image request from the user printer to the network site for printing the at least one image at the user printer; and

performing, via the user printer, the at least one automatic image request including automatically:

determining, via a network communication link between the user printer and the network site, whether the at least one image has been posted at the network site by the sender;

capturing, via the network communication link, the at least one image from the network site to the user printer upon determining that the at least one image has been posted at the network site; and

automatically printing the at least one image on the user printer according to the print criterion.